



Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial

October 21, 2015

Minutes

Those Present:

Roger Newall, Archie Garcia, Ken O'Keefe, Pat Gaston, Brian Leen,
Chris Timm, Mike Scramski and GUEST: Elinor Reiners SECRETARY: Beth Hemmerich

Those Excused:

Stephen Asher, Steve Overman, David Sparks, Jonathan Strawn, and Martin Ethridgehill

I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:13 am

II. Review and Accept of Minutes from August 19, 2015

- The motion to accept the September minutes was approved. Minor changes were made to correct spelling of names.

III. Public Comments

- Elinor Reiners addressed the group on the updates regarding the VIC property and the plans for the future. The VIC is moving forward with getting facilities. Right now it appears that they will be going for the property located behind the VA Medical Center.
There is a City owned property that has great potential, however, they are still 2-3 years out from development. The City is collecting RFP's and working with the neighbors to discuss what they would like to see developed at that property.
Elinor informed the group that they have been saving up financially and they are ready to launch a facilities campaign.
The question was asked if they had received any grants. Elinor let the group know that until there is a property associated with the company, you cannot apply for a grant. Since they don't have property acquired, they are unable to get grants for financial assistance.

IV. Unfinished Business

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- The Veterans Day at the State Fair was on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, and Archie said there was a great turnout, both in the amount of Veterans who attended and booths at the fair. He also noted that he did not see the Rail Runner at the expo signing up Veterans. He was disappointed because this was a prime opportunity for Rail Runner.

V. New Business

- Chris Timm told the group that there is a petition to get the Medal of Honor Society conference to be held in New Mexico for 2018. 2016 and 2017 locations have already been chosen. There is local discussion being made regarding the City of Santa Fe versus the City of Albuquerque as the location to put the bid in for. There may be an "ask" for help from the Veterans and Advisory Affairs Advisory Board for assistance in this petition. The first order of business is to give a presentation to the Board of the Medal of Honor Society in March 2016.
- Archie Garcia asked about the February legislation and the re-write of procurement for this upcoming session. It appears that no one has seen any updates regarding the February legislation.
There was a comment put out to the entire group to collect questions and concerns regarding the Veterans issues and bills, and get those to Archie so he can forward them to the person who can address them for legislation.

- Ken O'Keefe invited the group to the 2015 Veterans Day Ceremony at the NMVM. The Parade is from 9:00am-10:00am and will start at Bullhead park and end at the NMVM. There will be a musical prelude from 10:00am-11:00am and guests are welcomed to visit vendor booths. At 11:00am the ceremony will begin. Andy Welsh, Director of the VA Hospital is the keynote speaker, with special speaking by Mayor Berry, Medal of Honor Recipient Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, and a fallen warrior ceremony.
- Pat Gaston informed and invited attendees that the statewide 2015 Women Veterans Conference was taking place at the Marriott Pyramid hotel the week of October 26, and

VI. Setting of Future Meetings – November 18, 2015 at 9:00 am at the NM Veterans' Memorial. This meeting will be chaired by Archie Garcia, in Roger Newall's absence.

VII. Adjourn – 10:11 am.